

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Required Report - public distribution

**Date:** 10/19/2009

**GAIN Report Number:** E46098

## Spain EU-27

## EU-27 TREE NUTS ANNUAL

### Annual

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**Report Highlights:**

Expectations of an excellent harvest in Spain raised the total EU-27 almond production forecast for MY 2009/2010 to 99,054 MT. As the world's second largest almond producing country after the United States, Spain's MY 2009/2010 almond crop is anticipated to be about 60 percent larger than the previous year's crop, reaching 83,394 MT. Walnut, filbert and pistachio production within the EU-27 declined this MY, mainly reflecting adverse weather conditions and cyclical crop patterns in Italy.

## **Executive Summary**

Disclaimer: This report presents the situation and outlook for tree nuts (almonds, hazelnuts, walnuts and pistachios) in the EU-27. This report presents the views of the authors and does not reflect the official views of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The data are not official USDA data.

This report would not have been possible without the valuable expert contributions from the following Foreign Agricultural Service analysts:

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## **Abbreviations and Definitions Used in this Report**

Conversion factors used to convert shelled to in-shell tree nuts:

Almonds: 3.3	Hazelnuts: 2.03
Walnuts: 3.3	Pistachios: 1.5

GTA Global Trade Atlas  
Ha hectare; 1 ha = 2.471 acres

HS Codes: Harmonized System codes for commodity classification used to calculate trade data.

Almonds: Shelled 080212; In-shell 080211  
Walnuts: Shelled 080232; In-shell 080231  
Filberts/Hazelnuts: Shelled 080222; In-shell 080221  
Pistachios: 080250

MT Metric ton = 1,000 kg  
MS EU member state(s)

MY Marketing year  
Almonds: September/August  
Walnuts: October/September  
Hazelnuts: September/August  
Pistachios: September/August

USD U.S. Dollar

**Commodities:**

Almonds, Shelled Basis

**Production**

Spain's almond production for MY 2009/10 will increase nearly 60 percent over the previous year. The latest official data from the Spanish Ministry of Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs (MARM) indicates a better crop than initially expected. The most recent official almond crop forecast (as of June 2009) for the current MY is 83,394 MT, reflecting overall improved weather conditions. With the exception of persistent rains at the time of flowering in some areas in the Balearic Islands and a few isolated hailstorms, there were no other negative factors influencing crop production. The absence of rainfall during May and June had no apparent impact on the major producing areas; however, the lack of rain during July and August could negatively affect the forecast. Nevertheless, a very good harvest is expected in all producing regions.

In Italy, there has been a significant annual decline in the production of almonds, walnuts and hazelnuts, due in large part to the cyclical on-off production pattern of old tree stock. This MY is an "off" year. Almond production is expected to decline by 50 percent in MY 2009/10 as compared to the previous year. Heavy rain in late winter and throughout spring also contributed to production losses.

In Greece, MY 2009/10 almond output was revised downwards by nearly 50 percent over the previous MY. Preliminary estimates indicate that the MY 2009/10 harvest will not exceed 6,000 MT, as compared to 12,000 MT a year earlier. The production decline is attributed to several incidents of frost during spring 2009 which affected blossoming and fruit development.

Within the framework of a crop restructuring process called for under recent Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reforms, the expansion of almond cultivation was highly recommended by the Government of Greece. Local farm organizations are looking to identify areas where water availability is limited and farmers do not have many alternative crop choices. The Thessaly region of central Greece is one such area. New orchards of almonds, prunes, pistachios, olives and pomegranates are being planted, mostly by young farmers. These tree crops are replacing abandoned field crops such as cotton, tomatoes and sugar beets. The orchards follow organic agricultural practices. While currently small in scale, tree crop production in Thessaly is anticipated to expand in years to come.

**Table 1. Major EU Almond Producers by Volume in MT (Shelled Basis)**

<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>MY 2007/08</b>	<b>MY 2008/09</b>	<b>MY 2009/10</b>
Spain	56,879	52,636	83,394
Italy	12,000	12,000	6,000
Greece	10,000	12,000	6,000

## **Consumption**

Almonds are traditionally characterized by their good taste and high quality and are regarded as an ideal source of several natural health nutrients. Consumption patterns depend on such key factors as dietary habits, income levels and local custom. Several EU countries, including Greece, Spain and Italy, boast the highest per capita consumption levels for tree nuts in the world. Tree nut imports are essential for EU consumers to satisfy this high demand.

U.S. almond imports are utilized in a variety of ways -- for direct consumption; for processing into added-value nuts; as food ingredients including diced or sliced nuts and almond flour; and for processing in the confectionary industry.

Consumption estimates in the supply and demand table are residual. Nevertheless, they may, in fact, help us to understand consumption trends. Consumption is expected to be slightly reduced in MY 2008/09 from the previous year's level due in large part to the general economic downturn and the accompanying decline in consumption.

In Greece, the EU country with the highest per capita consumption of tree nuts, consumers have recently complained about extremely high nut prices and have begun to reduce overall tree nut purchases. Despite the price increases, domestic consumption of almonds is only slightly reduced in Greece following the significant price hike since 2007. Greeks still consume large quantities of nuts as a snack and, to a lesser extent, as an ingredient for confectionary products.

## **Trade**

### **Imports**

In MY 2007/08, some 65 percent of total EU-27 almond imports originated in the United States. As the number one almond supplier by far, the United States mainly exports shelled or peeled almonds. U.S. almonds face competition from locally grown almonds, particularly from Spain -- the world's second largest almond producer. Imports from Turkey are mainly for processing.

Almond imports into the EU are forecast to slightly decline in MY 2008/09 due to lower domestic consumption related to the general economic crisis.

The major EU-27 importers of almonds by volume are Germany, Spain, Italy and France.

**Table 2. EU-27 Imports of Almonds by Origin in MT (Shelled Basis)**

Country of Origin	MY 2005/06	MY 2006/07	MY 2007/08
United States	152,987	167,306	185,483
Australia	1,178	2,170	5,928
Chile	2,351	1,020	1,770
Syria	537	1,290	1,182
Morocco	1,348	1,445	1,031
Canada	1,178	272	421
Others	1,274	1,598	1,374
<b>TOTAL IMPORTS</b>	<b>160,853</b>	<b>175,101</b>	<b>197,189</b>

Source: GTA

## Exports

The top destinations for EU-27 almonds are Switzerland, Ceuta (an Autonomous City of Spain in North Africa) and the U.S. The largest almond exporter is Spain, followed far behind by Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands. Most of Spain's exports are destined for other EU members.

**Table 3. EU-27 Exports of Almonds by Destination in MT (Shelled Basis)**

Country of Origin	MY 2005/06	MY 2006/07	MY 2007/08
Switzerland	1,526	1,629	1,888
Ceuta	263	682	1,752
United States	1,396	1,511	1,358
Algeria	411	276	418
Japan	281	367	370
Lebanon	99	171	293
Others	2,005	2,472	2,659
<b>TOTAL EXPORTS</b>	<b>5,981</b>	<b>7,108</b>	<b>8,738</b>

Source: GTA

## Production, Supply and Demand Data Statistics

Almonds, Shelled Basis EU-27	2007			2008			2009			
	2007/2008			2008/2009			2009/2010			
	Market Year Begin: Sep 2007			Market Year Begin: Sep 2008			Market Year Begin: Sep 2009			
	USDA Official Data		New Post	USDA Official Data		New Post	USDA Official Data		New Post	
			Data			Data			Data	
Area Planted	742,663	738,132	727,763	742,114	719,930	727,214	741,797		726,897	(HA)
Area Harvested	711,051	639,085	699,229	710,616	637,000	698,513	710,022		698,122	(HA)
Bearing Trees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	(1000 TREES)
Non-Bearing Trees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	(1000 TREES)
Total Trees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	(1000 TREES)
Beginning Stocks	32,675	45,000	45,000	43,375	35,000	35,000	25,675		35,000	(MT)
Production	88,500	83,666	83,515	79,800	89,090	79,552	88,950		99,054	(MT)
Imports	220,300	185,000	197,189	200,000	195,000	195,000	220,000		195,000	(MT)
Total Supply	341,475	313,666	325,704	323,175	319,090	309,552	334,625		329,054	(MT)
Exports	8,800	7,000	8,738	7,500	7,500	9,000	8,500		8,500	(MT)
Domestic Consumption	289,300	271,666	281,966	290,000	266,590	265,552	301,125		285,554	(MT)
Ending Stocks	43,375	35,000	35,000	25,675	45,000	35,000	25,000		35,000	(MT)
Total Distribution	341,475	313,666	325,704	323,175	319,090	309,552	334,625		329,054	(MT)

Source: FAS Europe Offices

## Commodities:

Walnuts, Inshell Basis

## Production

In France, the most important EU producer of walnuts, the ‘almost final’ data for MY 2008/09 show a crop of 36,591 MT, an increase of 12 percent as compared to the previous year. The latest figures for MY 2009/10 indicate some 35,300 MT of walnuts produced.

Italy expects walnut production of 10,000 MT for MY 2009/10 due to adverse weather conditions – excessive rains during late winter and throughout the spring. As mentioned above for almonds, this is also an “off” year for walnut production.

**Table 4. Major EU Walnut Producers in MT (Inshell Basis)**

COUNTRY	MY 2007/08	MY 2008/09	MY 2009/10
France	32,635	36,591	35,300
Italy	14,000	20,000	10,000
Spain	9,512	12,000	12,000

## Consumption

While consumption estimates in the supply and demand table are residual, we expect consumption to be slightly reduced in MY 2008/09 over the prior year due to the general economic downturn and decline in overall consumption.

Among the most favored walnut varieties in the European market are Hartley, Eureka, Franquette, Vina and Chandler. Walnut consumption in the EU falls into several categories: as a snack food; an ingredient in home cooking; by-products for further processing; and as ingredients in the pastry and bakery industries.

## Trade

### Imports

The wide gap between EU walnut production and imports provides an excellent opportunity for walnut exporters. The United States is the number one supplier of walnuts, both in-shell and shelled.

The EU imports various types of walnuts for varied uses -- direct consumption, further processing and re-export within the region in such forms as salted, baked, fried and mixed nuts.

**Table 5. EU-27 Imports of Walnuts by Origin in MT (Inshell Basis)**

Country of Origin	MY 2005/06	MY 2006/07	MY 2007/08
United States	84,949	80,156	83,319
Chile	11,772	15,790	26,213
Ukraine	28,877	6,485	21,877
Moldova	24,250	23,185	20,562
China	16,184	14,044	18,862
India	12,726	22,194	17,377
Others	4,932	6,109	3,698
<b>TOTAL IMPORTS</b>	<b>183,690</b>	<b>167,963</b>	<b>191,908</b>

Source: GTA

### Exports

The top destinations for EU-27 walnuts are Turkey, Moldova and Switzerland. The largest walnut exporters are France, Germany and Italy.

**Table 6. EU-27 Exports of Walnuts by Destination in MT (Inshell Basis)**

Country of Origin	MY 2005/06	MY 2006/07	MY 2007/08
Turkey	7,159	11,111	3,954
Moldova	3,981	5,419	2,655
Switzerland	2,971	2,692	2,372
Syria	1,587	3,181	1,708
Croatia	1,875	2,020	1,320
Albania	639	892	1,118
Others	4,377	7,535	4,810
<b>TOTAL EXPORTS</b>	<b>22,589</b>	<b>32,850</b>	<b>17,937</b>

Source: GTA

**Production, Supply and Demand Data Statistics**

Walnuts, Inshell Basis EU-27	2007			2008			2009		
	2007/2008			2008/2009			2009/2010		
	Market Year Begin: Oct 2007			Market Year Begin: Oct 2008			Market Year Begin: Oct 2009		
	USDA Official Data		New Post	USDA Official Data		New Post	USDA Official Data		New Post
			Data			Data			Data
Area Planted	22,970	22,970	32,770	22,870	22,870	32,573			32,747 (HA)
Area Harvested	21,970	21,970	30,773	21,970	21,970	28,904			30,750 (HA)
Bearing Trees	0	0	0	0	0	0			0 (1000 TREES)
Non-Bearing Trees	0	0	0	0	0	0			0 (1000 TREES)
Total Trees	0	0	0	0	0	0			0 (1000 TREES)
Beginning Stocks	40,000	40,000	40,000	30,000	30,000	30,000			30,000 (MT)
Production	44,230	44,230	57,547	44,500	44,500	69,013			58,300 (MT)
Imports	170,000	170,000	191,908	180,000	180,000	165,000			170,000 (MT)
Total Supply	254,230	254,230	289,455	254,500	254,500	264,013			258,300 (MT)
Exports	20,000	20,000	17,937	22,000	22,000	25,000			25,000 (MT)
Domestic Consumption	204,230	204,230	241,518	202,500	202,500	209,013			203,300 (MT)
Ending Stocks	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000			30,000 (MT)
Total Distribution	254,230	254,230	289,455	254,500	254,500	264,013			258,300 (MT)

Source: FAS Europe Offices



**Commodities:**

Filberts, Inshell Basis

**Production**

In the text below, we will refer to filberts as hazelnuts, the term most commonly used in international marketing.

Italy is the world's second largest hazelnut producer, following Turkey, and the main EU producer. Crop production in Italy for MY 2008/09 has been revised downwards due to excessively high temperatures reported in late August and September. Production in MY 2009/10 is expected to decline to 95,000 MT, as it is an "off" year for tree nut production.

Spain also produces a significant quantity of hazelnuts. For MY 2008/09, output increased by about one-third, resulting in an upward revision to 24,000 MT. For MY 2009/10, MARM's latest preliminary forecast for hazelnuts indicates a decline in this year's production within Spain.

**Table 7. Main EU Hazelnut Producers in MT (In-shell Basis)**

<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>MY 2007/08</b>	<b>MY 2008/09</b>	<b>MY 2009/10</b>
Italy	110,000	125,000	95,000
Spain	16,134	24,000	14,000

**Consumption**

Domestic production of EU hazelnuts supplies less than 40 percent of local demand for snack and industrial purposes. Domestic demand is met by imports -- mainly from Turkey.

While consumption estimates in the supply and demand table are residual, they indicate that consumption is expected to be slightly reduced in MY 2008/09 -- as expected throughout the sector due to the general economic downturn and decline in consumption throughout the EU countries.

**Trade****Imports**

The United States is the main supplier of in-shell hazelnuts to the EU. However, when total imports are converted to an in-shell basis, the United States falls to fourth position in MY 2007/08, after Turkey, Georgia and Azerbaijan.

Shelled hazelnuts are imported mainly from Turkey, the world's dominant producer. Italy is the second world producer and exports mainly to other EU Member States.

**Table 8. EU-27 Imports of Hazelnuts by Origin in MT (Inshell Basis)**

<b>Country of Origin</b>	<b>MY 2005/06</b>	<b>MY 2006/07</b>	<b>MY 2007/08</b>
Turkey	176,112	193,428	166,542
Georgia	16,305	22,306	14,543
Azerbaijan	19,876	3,721	9,228
United States	4,220	4,237	3,571
Chile	895	955	1,772
China	489	621	262
Others	629	4,899	3,609
<b>TOTAL IMPORTS</b>	<b>218,526</b>	<b>230,167</b>	<b>199,527</b>

Source: GTA

## **Exports**

The top destinations for EU-27 hazelnuts are Switzerland, Norway and Turkey. The major EU hazelnut exporters are Italy, Germany and Spain.

**Table 9. EU-27 Exports of Hazelnuts by Destination in MT (Inshell Basis)**

<b>Country of Origin</b>	<b>MY 2005/06</b>	<b>MY 2006/07</b>	<b>MY 2007/08</b>
Switzerland	4,000	4,448	6,480
Norway	1,042	1,195	1,263
Turkey	439	554	1,005
Canada	28	573	938
Serbia	12	520	891
Venezuela	53	83	802
Others	1,540	2,759	3,294
<b>TOTAL EXPORTS</b>	<b>7,114</b>	<b>10,132</b>	<b>14,673</b>

Source: GTA

## Production, Supply and Demand Data Statistics

Filberts, Inshell Basis EU-27	2007		2008		2009		
	2007/2008		2008/2009		2009/2010		
	Market Year Begin: Sep 2007		Market Year Begin: Sep 2008		Market Year Begin: Sep 2009		
	USDA Official Data	New Post	USDA Official Data	New Post	USDA Official Data	New Post	
		Data		Data		Data	
Area Planted	89,800	89,116	90,000	85,146		84,802	(HA)
Area Harvested	88,300	87,383	88,500	82,843		82,653	(HA)
Bearing Trees	0	0	0	0		0	(1000 TREES)
Non-Bearing Trees	0	0	0	0		0	(1000 TREES)
Total Trees	0	0	0	0		0	(1000 TREES)
Beginning Stocks	50,000	50,000	35,000	40,000		40,000	(MT)
Production	98,000	126,134	158,500	149,000		109,000	(MT)
Imports	250,000	199,527	240,000	222,000		220,000	(MT)
Total Supply	398,000	375,661	433,500	411,000		369,000	(MT)
Exports	10,000	14,673	10,000	13,000		13,000	(MT)
Domestic Consumption	353,000	320,988	383,500	358,000		316,000	(MT)
Ending Stocks	35,000	40,000	40,000	40,000		40,000	(MT)
Total Distribution	398,000	375,661	433,500	411,000		369,000	(MT)

Source: FAS Europe Offices

## Commodities:

Pistachios, Inshell Basis

## Production

For Greece, the major producer of pistachios in the EU, MY 2009/10 output is estimated at 9,000 MT.

In Italy, growers radically trim their trees every other year, thus producing only in odd years. The production volume predicted for MY 2009/10 of some 4,000 MT is considered a normal crop.

**Table 10. Main EU Pistachio Producers in MT (Inshell Basis)**

COUNTRY	MY 2007/08	MY 2008/09	MY 2009/10
Greece	9,000	9,000	9,000
Italy	4,000	200	4,000

## Consumption

Domestic EU pistachio production supplies less than ten percent of local demand for both snack and industrial use. Domestic demand is met through imports sourced mainly from the United States and Iran.

Consumption estimates in the supply and demand table are residual and indicate a slight decline in MY 2008/09. As with the entire sector, this can be attributed to the general economic downturn and associated decline in EU consumption.

## Trade

### Imports

The EU is a net importer of pistachios due to very limited EU production. The main suppliers for the European market are the United States and Iran who together account for nearly 100 percent of import market share. Most pistachios imported into the EU are in-shell and are utilized in both the snack and confectionary sectors.

**Table 11. EU-27 Imports of Pistachios by Origin in MT (Inshell Basis)**

Country of Origin	MY 2005/06	MY 2006/07	MY 2007/08
United States	37,140	42,262	51,779
Iran	32,560	33,517	29,599
Turkey	403	889	774
Afghanistan	-	600	420
Syria	24	207	268
China	358	973	131
Others	305	348	141
<b>TOTAL IMPORTS</b>	<b>70,790</b>	<b>78,796</b>	<b>83,112</b>

Source: GTA

### Exports

The top destinations for EU-27 pistachios are Melilla (an Autonomous City of Spain in North Africa), Switzerland, Serbia and Russia. The major EU pistachio exporters are Greece, Italy and Spain.

**Table 12. EU-27 Exports of Pistachios by Destination in MT (Inshell Basis)**

Country of Origin	MY 2005/06	MY 2006/07	MY 2007/08
Melilla	201	363	332
Switzerland	222	218	257
Serbia	3	87	201
Russia	128	222	171
Ceuta	45	107	122
Iran	98	174	101
Others	473	715	720
<b>TOTAL EXPORTS</b>	<b>1,170</b>	<b>1,886</b>	<b>1,904</b>

Source: GTA

**Production, Supply and Demand Data Statistics**

Pistachios, Inshell Basis EU-27	2007			2008			2009		
	2007/2008			2008/2009			2009/2010		
	Market Year Begin: Sep 2007			Market Year Begin: Sep 2008			Market Year Begin: Sep 2009		
	USDA Official Data	Old Post		USDA Official Data	Old Post		USDA Official Data	Old Post	
			Data			Data			Data
Area Planted	8,372	8,372	8,793	8,352	8,352	8,722			8,722 (HA)
Area Harvested	8,372	8,372	8,771	8,352	8,352	8,672			8,672 (HA)
Bearing Trees	0	0	0	0	0	0			0 (1000 TREES)
Non-Bearing Trees	0	0	0	0	0	0			0 (1000 TREES)
Total Trees	0	0	0	0	0	0			0 (1000 TREES)
Beginning Stocks	15,000	15,000	15,000	14,000	14,000	14,000			14,000 (MT)
Production	13,000	13,000	9,200	9,200	9,200	9,200			13,000 (MT)
Imports	118,000	118,000	83,112	125,000	125,000	75,000			80,000 (MT)
Total Supply	146,000	146,000	107,312	148,200	148,200	98,200			107,000 (MT)
Exports	2,000	2,000	1,904	2,000	2,000	2,000			2,000 (MT)
Domestic Consumption	130,000	130,000	91,408	132,200	132,200	82,200			91,000 (MT)
Ending Stocks	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000			14,000 (MT)
Total Distribution	146,000	146,000	107,312	148,200	148,200	98,200			107,000 (MT)

Source: FAS Europe Offices

**Commodities:**

Almonds, Shelled Basis

Walnuts, Inshell Basis

Filberts, Inshell Basis

Pistachios, Inshell Basis

**Policy**

European Commission legislation, [\(EC\) Regulation EC/73/2009](#) (which repealed [EC/1782/2003](#)), establishes the common rules for direct support schemes under the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Section 4, Articles 82 to 86, "Area payment for nuts," defines the general payment structure for CAP assistance to the tree nut sector.

Under this Regulation, EC aid will be granted for 2009-2011 to farmers who produce almonds, hazelnuts, walnuts, pistachios or locust beans and meet the conditions for eligibility outlined in Article 85. Tree nut producers are eligible for EC aid based on the guaranteed maximum area allocated to each Member State (see Table 13 below) which is defined as their national guaranteed area (NGA).

The Community area payment is granted within the limit calculated by multiplying the number of NGA hectares by the average amount of €120.75 (approximately US\$ 181 at € 1.00 = US\$ 1.50). If the actual area exceeds the NGA, the amount of aid is reduced proportionately. Community aid is only granted if farmers comply with a minimum plot size and tree density.

In theory, the maximum level of aid for all tree nut producers is €241.50 (US\$ 362) per hectare: the €120.75 (US\$ 181) per hectare Community payment and the matching maximum payment provided by the individual Member State's national government. However, in practice Member States can reapportion the area payments by "sub-base areas" amongst the different types of nuts. For example, the MY 2008/2009 maximum payment for hazelnuts in Spain is €264.89 (US\$ 397) per hectare, which results in a reduced maximum payment for all other nuts of €159.89 (US\$ 240).

**Table 13. EU-27 National Guaranteed Area and Financial Ceiling.**

Member State	NGA (Ha)	Financial Ceiling (Euro)
Belgium	100	12,075
Germany	1,500	181,125
France	17,300	2,088,975
Greece	41,100	4,962,825
Italy	130,100	15,709,575
Luxembourg	100	12,075
Netherlands	100	12,075
Austria	100	12,075
Portugal	41,300	4,986,975
Spain	568,200	68,610,150
United kingdom	100	12,075
Bulgaria*	11,984	1,447,068
Cyprus*	5,100	615,825
Hungary*	2,900	350,175
Poland*	4,200	507,150
Romania*	1,645	198,634
Slovenia*	300	36,225
Slovakia*	3,100	374,325
Total EU-27	829,229	100,129,402

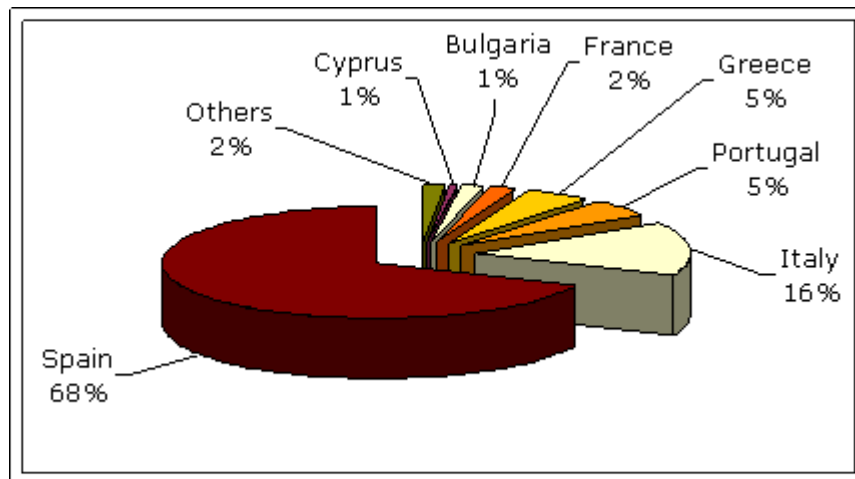
\*These countries had no NGA in [Regulation \(EC\) 1782/2003](#). For some, the financial ceiling will vary from 2010 to 2013 as shown in Table 13 below.

**Table 14. Increase in Tree Nuts Financial Ceiling for New Member States**

Member State	2010	2011	2012	2013
Bulgaria	1,447	1,302	1,158	1,013
Cyprus	616	616	616	616
Hungary	350	350	350	350
Poland	507	507	507	507
Romania	199	179	159	139
Slovenia	36	36	36	36
Slovakia	374	374	374	374

Source: European Commission (EC) [Regulation EC/73/2009](#)

**Chart 1. Distribution of Total EC Tree Nut Aid in 2009**



**Special Measures for Aflatoxin Testing of U.S. Almonds:** EC Decision 2007/563/EC establishes special conditions for almonds and derived products originating in or consigned from the United States of America due to contamination risks of these products by aflatoxins.

The new regime applies to almonds in-shell or shelled, roasted almonds and mixtures of nuts or dried fruits containing almonds, and foodstuffs containing a significant amount (at least 10 percent) of almonds. Member States are required to test approximately five percent of almond consignments that have been inspected under the California Voluntary Aflatoxin Sampling Program (VASP). For those shipments that do not carry a VASP certificate, Member States are required to test all shipments.

The EU aflatoxin legislation has been under discussion since the adoption in July 2008 by the Codex Alimentarius Commission of maximum aflatoxin levels for almonds, hazelnuts and pistachios and an associated sampling plan. Specifically, Codex adopted the following standards:

**Ready-to-eat:** 10ppb total aflatoxin, based on 2x10 kg samples

**For further processing:** 15ppb total aflatoxin, based on a single 20 kg sample

At the October 15, 2009 EU Standing Committee Meeting, delegates approved the alignment of EU aflatoxin limits for almonds, hazelnuts, Brazil nuts and pistachios with the Codex standards. The effective date is anticipated to be February 2010.



Follow the link below for special EC and Member State reports regarding these measures: <http://useu.usmission.gov/agri/contaminants.html>

## Related Reports

Report Number	Title	Date Released
<a href="#">E49030</a>	EU-27 Tree Nuts Semi-Annual	04/30/2009
<a href="#">E48103</a>	EU-27 Tree Nuts Annual	12/24/2008
<a href="#">E48030</a>	EU-27 Tree Nuts Annual	04/08/2008
<a href="#">GM8007</a>	VASP Situation in Germany	01/31/2008
<a href="#">SP7027</a>	Tree Nuts Annual	09/23/2007
These reports can be accessed through the FAS website <a href="http://www.fas.usda.gov/scriptsw/attacherep/default.asp">http://www.fas.usda.gov/scriptsw/attacherep/default.asp</a>		